

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION EA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5435

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 621

LIMDIS

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TAGS: PINT,, CH

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS FROM PEKING UNIVERSITY

REF: PEKING 576

1. DR. ROBERT WINTER, CALLING AT USLO ON APRIL 7 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

OF MAIL PROBLEMS, OFFERED THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON EVENTS AND
VIEWS AT PEKING UNIVERSITY.

2. WINTER SAID THAT THE FIFTEEN-CADRE UNIT LODGED IN THE EXPERTS
BUILDING (REFTEL) HAD DECAMPED ABOUT APRIL 1 AND HAD NOT RETURNED.
SOME

PLA OFFICERS WHO WERE SOMEHOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNIT HAD ALSO LEFT.
THERE HAD BEEN NO RALLIES OR OTHER UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS IN THE

PAST WEEK, AND NO ORGANIZED GROUPS HAD GONE FROM THE CAMPUS TO TIEN
AN MEN SQUARE.

3. THE APRIL 5 DISTURBANCES AT TIEN AN MEN SQUARE QUICKLY BECAME
COMMON KNOWLEDGE ON CAMPUS THE SAME DAY, PARTICULARLY THAT A
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UNIVERSITY STUDENT HAD BEEN BEATED BY THE CROWD NEAR THE MARTYRS'

MONUMENT. (COMMENT: AT THE MONUMENT ON THE MORNING OF THE 5TH A WESTERN DIPLOMAT WITNESSED SEVERE AND PROLONGED MIS-TREATMENT, BY TEENAGED YOUTHS, OF A YOUNG MAN WHOM CHINESE IN THE CROWD SAID WAS FROM TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY. AT LEAST TWO OTHER YOUTHS, POSSIBLY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, WERE BEATEN AFTER REPORTEDLY MAKING ANTI-CHOU STATEMENTS.) A FOREIGN FACULTY COLLEAGUE'S CHILDREN, WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE SQUARE ON APRIL 5, REPORTED THAT A "PEOPLE'S DAILY" CORRESPONDENT WHOM THEY RECOGNIZED HAD ALSO BEEN SET UPON BY THE CROWD. ON THE SAME DAY, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE DISTURBANCES, THE SAME COLLEAGUE HAD BEEN VISITED BY HER CHINESE "WATCHDOG." THE VISIT DRAGGED ON FOR SEVERAL HOURS, UNTIL NORMAL CONVERSATION HAD BEEN EXHAUSTED AND THE CADRE, RATHER EMBARRASSED, HAD TO EXPLAIN THAT HE HAD COME TO HER APARTMENT "FOR HER SECURITY." WINTER ASSUMES HIS COOK WAS PERFORMING THE SAME FUNCTION IN HOVERING AROUND HIM ALL DAY ON APRIL 5.

4. ON APRIL 6 WINTER WAS VISITED BY THE SON OF A FORMER TSINGHUA FACULTY COLLEAGUE. THE SON NOW WORKS IN A FACTORY, HAVING BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO ENROLL IN THE UNIVERSITY AFTER MIDDLE-SCHOOL GRADUATION. HE TOLD WINTER THAT TENG HSIAO-PING AND HIS SUPPORTERS (WHOM WINTER REFERRED TO AS THE "CHOU EN-LAI FACTION") WERE NOT GOING TO TAKE THE CURRENT ONSLAUGHTS AGAINST THEM LYING DOWN AND THAT HE EXPECTED MORE VIOLENCE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

5. SOME OF WINTER'S CHINESE FACULTY COLLEAGUES ARE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF CHAIRMAN MAO'S "WHITE-CAT, BLACK-CAT" QUOTATION AIMED AT TENG. IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE AMONG THEM THAT THE CHAIRMAN IS NEARLY BLIND, HAS TROUBLE STANDING, AND SPEAKS IN ALMOST UNINTELLIGIBLE GRUNTS. IT IS ALSO NOT THE CHAIRMAN'S STYLE TO INTERJECT HIMSELF SO EARLY AND SO CLEARLY IN FACTIONAL DISPUTES. WINTER'S COLLEAGUES, ACCORDING TO WINTER, SUSPECT THAT SINCE CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH CHIANG CHING HAS BEEN IN A BETTER POSITION TO "INTERPRET" THE CHAIRMAN'S UTTERANCES AND RELAY HER INTERPRETATIONS THROUGH THE LEFTIST-DOMINATED MEDIA. THOMAS

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